

Meeting Summary

City of Tucson Department of Transportation (TDOT)

Ward 4 Citizen Design Review Committee (CDRC)

April 27, 2011, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Clements Center, 8155 E. Poinciana Drive

ATTENDEES

Ward 4 CDRC Members

Rick Hanson, Civano Neighborhood Association (NA)

Rudy Lopez, Rita Ranch NA

Ken Moyes, Rita Ranch NA

Joe Yee, Old Spanish Trail NA

Bob Small, Civano NA

Michael Tone, Rita Ranch NA

Guests

John Litteer

Davita Mueller, Rita Ranch NA

Richard Prevallet, VP Facilities, Tucson Medical Center

City of Tucson

Council Member Shirley Scott, Ward 4

Max Torres, Ward 4 Representative

Regional Transportation Authority (RTA)

Jim DeGrood, RTA Transportation Services Director

Britton Dornquast, RTA MainStreet Program

Riley Rasmussen, Pima Association of Governments

State of Arizona

Senator Frank Antenori

TDOT Staff and Consultants

M.J. Dillard, TDOT Project Manager

Alejandro Angel, Psomas Project Manager

Melissa Anguiz, Gordley Design Group, Public Involvement

Alice Templeton, Gordley Design Group, Public Involvement

MATERIALS

- Agenda
- Implementation plan map
- CDRC neighborhoods map
- Meeting evaluation form
- Comment form
- Feb. 16, 2011, Ward 4 CDRC meeting summary
- PAG/RTA Houghton Road Project Value Analysis (VA) Study April 2011

INTRODUCTIONS

- Alice Templeton opened the meeting expressing appreciation to the CDRC members, dignitaries and guests for attending.
- Alice asked all present to introduce themselves and then reviewed the meeting protocol.

PROJECT UPDATES

M.J. Dillard provided updates on the Houghton Road Corridor:

- The current economic climate is slowing RTA funding and programs.
- The Houghton Road Corridor project needed City of Tucson, Pima County and RTA funding to move forward with the construction of the Houghton Road: Irvington Road to Valencia Road and the Houghton Road and Broadway Boulevard Intersection projects.
- The RTA conducted a VA of the Houghton Road Corridor projects to identify possible ways to make projects more cost effective.
- The VA was completed in March, and the VA Report was approved by the RTA Technical Advisory Committee on April 26.
- The RTA and Pima County have finalized an intergovernmental agreement (IGA) assuring Pima County will provide the \$7.5 million needed for the two projects mentioned above.
- The RTA board voted to sell bonds to assure the funding for the above projects is in place.
- M.J. will be presenting the Houghton Road Corridor overview to the RTA board on April 28, where she will be asking for the release of the funding to move forward with the two projects. If approved, the Houghton Road: Irvington Road to Valencia Road project is anticipated to start construction in July, and the Houghton Road and Broadway Boulevard Intersection should start construction this fall.
- All projects scheduled for the third quarter are not anticipated to start until 2016. The RTA will be voting in summer of 2012 to determine if future bonding should occur to possibly speed up the project implementation.
- Updates to the implementation plan for all remaining projects are pending further direction from the RTA.
- The only projects currently in design are those receiving federal funding, Houghton Road, UPRR to Interstate 10 and Houghton Road, Bridge over the UPRR.

RTA UPDATE

Jim DeGrood provided background on the RTA involvement in the Houghton Road Corridor and the VA:

- The RTA initiated a self-audit in June 2010.
- The RTA interviewed the jurisdictions and collected cost estimates for all RTA projects, comparing them to the best-management practices in other jurisdictions.

- Between November 2010 and January 2011, the RTA board initiated the following practices for RTA projects:
 - A project charter should be formed at the start of a project, before design begins.
 - Caps on cost were adopted for the design and planning portions of projects. If there is a deviation from the original scope, schedule or budget of a project, it needs to be brought back to the RTA for review at the conclusion of the planning phase.
 - For projects concluding the planning phase, it is appropriate for outside engineers to evaluate the project design in order to make recommendations on possible cost reductions.
- The Houghton Road Corridor was the first project in which the RTA implemented these practices. The VA is intended to be a recommendation and tool, rather than a mandate for the designers and jurisdictions.
- The VA of the current Houghton Road Corridor projects went well. Psomas and PB were complimented for their value engineering on the Houghton Road projects. The consultants, jurisdictions and reviewers worked together to identify logical reductions.
- The entire Houghton Road Corridor project, as it stands now, is estimated to cost about \$180 million. This total sum is about \$15 million more than the funding that has been identified to date. The goal of the VA was to locate potential savings to make up for the remaining cost.
- Pima County expressed concern about a lack of funding for the \$27.3 million they pledged on the project for impact fees. The RTA is not able to contribute Pima County's portion of the funding.
- Council Member Shirley Scott requested that the CDRC be provided with an opportunity to comment on the VA.
- Pima County may move the Greenway, originally planned for the east side of Houghton Road, to Harrison Road. If this occurs, the City may install a single asphalt path on Houghton Road, 6 feet to 10 feet wide, instead of a dual-path to save costs. Installing one path instead of two will also set the users of the path farther from the roadway.
- Jim reported that that during the April 28 RTA board meeting, he will be requesting that the board approve the Houghton Road VA and IGA for funding the Houghton Road: Irvington Road to Valencia Road and the Houghton Road and Broadway Boulevard Intersection projects.

ART PROCESS

M.J. Dillard clarified the art process for the Houghton Road: Irvington Road to Valencia Road project:

- This art project area primarily covers the Civano, Sierra Morado and Mesquite Ranch neighborhoods and residents.
- The Houghton Road: Valencia Road to Old Vail Road project, which is primarily in the Rita Ranch neighborhood, will have its own art selection process. There will be an opportunity to select a new artist for this project.

- According to the research conducted by the art planners, there is a difference in the neighborhood value systems, as related to art, between the residents in the two project areas.
- Civano, Sierra Morado, Mesquite Ranch and Rita Ranch neighborhoods are welcome to give input on the art for the Houghton Road: Irvington Road to Valencia Road project. There may be more weight given to the preference of Civano, Sierra Morado and Mesquite Ranch since they are most directly impacted.
- The CDRC expressed that they would like community input in the general theme of the art.
- The CDRC expressed that they would like input on whether art will be in multiple locations throughout the project or a single piece at one location.
- All of the CDRC members are invited to attend a meeting regarding art for the Houghton Road: Irvington Road to Valencia Road project on May 9.

PARKING LOT TRANSCRIPTION

- Greenway location and funding
- Intersection of Rita/Houghton on east side of greenway (drainage ditch)
- Landscaping items: Valencia to I-10
- Schedule of light pole replacement/sidewalks – Old Vail
- Southern segment plans
- Implementation plan schedule – CDRC to prioritize
- Walking path too close to street
- Timeline for walls at Rita Ranch
- Union Pacific Railroad updates
- Walking/biking north of Pantano
- Homeowners' brick wall between Rita Road and Old Vail

Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:30 p.m.